

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13716 300731Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /058 W
----- 033568

R 300245Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9899

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13716

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL DANANG 26 OCT 74.
REPEATED FOR YOU. QUOTE.

DANANG 0525

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION TO MINISTERIAL RESIGNATIONS

1.NLHE CONGEN HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS TO THE
RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR CABINET MINISTERS OF THE GVN:

2. DA NANG CATHOLIC VICAR NGUYEN QUANG XUYEN SAID THAT THESE
RESIGNATIONS WERE THE FIRST OF SEVERAL MAJOR CHANGES TO BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13716 300731Z

EFFECTED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. HE SAID HE EXPECTED MANY CHANGES IN

PROVINCE CHIEFS AND SUGGESTED THAT QUANG TIN PROVINCE CHIEF DAO MONG XUAN WOULD BE AMONG THOSE RELIEVED. ACCORDING TO FATHER XUYEN, PRESIDENT THIEU WAS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO REMOVE CORRUPT OFFICERS; IF THIS WAS NOT DONE BY THE END OF THE YEAR OR THE FIRST OF NEXT YEAR THIS PRESSURE MIGHT FORCE THE PRESIDENT'S OWN RESIGNATION. HE COMPARED THE SITUATION EXPLICITLY TO WATERGATE. FATHER XUYEN SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET RID OF HOANG DUC NHA, AS HE WAS "HATED" BY THE PEOPLE. FATHER XUYEN ALSO SUGGESTED THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FORM A "UNITY GOVERNMENT" TO INCLUDE ALL NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED VU VAN MAU MIGHT BE MADE VICE PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY BAD FOR THE COUNTRY FOR PRESIDENT THIEU HIMSELF TO RESIGN, AND URGED THAT THE PRESIDENT SERVE OUT HIS TERM IN OFFICE.

3. BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUYEN DUC KHANH, COMMANDER, 1ST AIR DIV., SAID "IT IS GOOD NEWS AND NEEDED TO BE DONE". GENERAL KHANH COMMENTED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO SEE WHO WILL REPLACE THEM.

4. MAJOR GENERAL HOANG VAN LAC, MR 1 DEPUTY COMMANDER, SAID IT WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF IT WILL BE ENOUGH. LAC SAID NHA CLEARLY HAD TO GO OR HE WOULD BRING DOWN THE PRESIDENT, THAT EVERYONE HATES NHA. ACCORDING TO GENERAL LAC, RUMORS HAVE BEEN RIFE IN I CORPS FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS: WILL THERE BE A MILITARY SHUFFLE? LAC SAID THAT WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS 4 CORPS COMMANDERS LIKE (MR 1 CG NGO QUANG) TRUONG, 13 DIVISION COMMANDERS LIKE TRUONG WAS, AND 44 PROVINCE CHIEFS LIKE (DA NANG) MAYOR DAO TRONG TUONG. GENERAL LAC ALSO COMMENTED THAT I CORPS FORWARD COMMANDER LAM QUANG THI IS LOBBYING HARD FOR A CORPS COMMAND.

5. DA NANG MAYOR COLONEL TUONG REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING ON THE CHANGES, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD BE FOR THE BETTER.

6. COLONEL TRANG CONG LIEU, CHIEF, GVN DELEGATION TO TPJMC REGION II, SAID "NHA IS A GOOD MAN. IF THERE IS SOMETHING FOR HIM TO DO HE CAN WORK 24 HOURS WITHOUT REST, BUT HE IS NOT A DIPLOMAT".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13716 300731Z

7. OTHER LOWER RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS GENERALLY APPLAUDED THE REMOVAL OF NHA AND THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF REMOVING MINISTERS, SEVERAL SOURCES COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT TON THAT TRINH (AGRICULTURE MINISTER) WAS A VERY CAPABLE MAN AND POSSIBLY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FIRED, RECALLING HIS DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC RECORD IN FRENCH SCHOOLS.

8. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JOURNALISTS' SYNDICATE, A FEW PRESS CORRESPONDENTS WHO WERE QUERIED, AND INFORMATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED A DELIBERATE "NO COMMENT" ON NHA RESIGNATION.

9. IN HUE, THE VICE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY NGUYEN VAN HAI AND A LOCAL VNQDD POLITICIAN HAD NO DETAILED COMMENT EXCEPT THAT BOTH ASSUMED THESE RESIGNATIONS WERE TO SOME DEGREE THE RESULT OF RECENT PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT THIEU TO ELIMINATE ELEMENTS ENGAGED IN FINANCIAL CORRUPTION. SIGNED FRANCIS. UNQUOTE. MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740309-0472
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974106/aaaaaeym.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTION TO MINISTERIAL RESIGNATIONS
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005